

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 676, As Amended

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1620, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE INTENT, TO PROVIDE FOR GUIDELINES, OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION AND FORMS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF GUIDELINES, INFORMATION AND FORMS AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE SUCH GUIDELINES, INFORMATION AND FORMS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1620, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1620. LEGISLATIVE INTENT -- YOUTH ATHLETES -- CONCUSSION GUIDELINES. The legislature finds that concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. The centers for disease control and prevention estimates that as many as three million eight hundred thousand (3,800,000) sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year. A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

Concussions are a type of brain injury that can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority occur without loss of consciousness.

Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death. The legislature recognizes that, despite having generally recognized return to play standards for concussion and head injury, some affected youth athletes are prematurely returned to play resulting in actual or potential physical injury or death to youth athletes in the state of Idaho.

(1) The state board of education shall collaborate with the Idaho high school activities association to develop guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate coaches, both paid and volunteer, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury including risks associated with continuing to play after concussion or head injury.

(2) The guidelines, information and forms described in subsection (1) of this section shall be developed for and may be used by all organized youth sport organizations or associations that sponsor, promote or otherwise ad-

1 minister youth sport organizations or activities in this state. The state  
2 board of education shall make available on its internet website the guide-  
3 lines, information and forms provided for in this section.